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IN ALLEN PARISH

Board wants to be in single district with SW La. parishes

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OBERLIN — The anticipated loss of a congressional district is a cause for concern for the Allen Parish School Board.

The board on Monday issued a plea that all of Allen Parish be placed in one U.S. House district, preferably with other Southwest Louisiana parishes.

Allen Parish is now split between U.S. House Districts 4 and 5, which board members say dilutes the influence of the parish and separates it from its normal area of common interest.

Board Member Cathy Farris said having a single district would help the voice of the people.

"When they just have a little piece of the parish, it's hard to be heard," she said.

Board Member Alma Johnson said it will be "an advantage" for the people of Allen Parish to all be in one congressional district.

As a result of the 2010 Census, Louisiana will lose a House seat. A session of the Legislature dedicated to redistricting is set for March.